

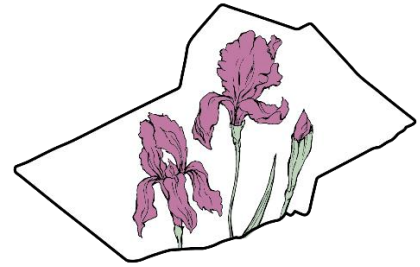
South Schuylkill Garden Club

Third Tuesday of the Month at 6:30

First United Church of Christ, Schuylkill Haven

www.southschuylkillgardenclub.com

www.facebook.com/soschuylkillgardenclub.com



Cultivating the Community Newsletter

Weather Folklore for July (July is filled with a lot of weather folklore here is just a few.)

- First, July 3rd marks the beginning of the “Dog Days of Summer,” the period between July 3rd and August 11th when the Sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the Dog Star. It was once believed that due to the star’s position at this time of year that it somehow conspired with the Sun to make the days hotter!
- **July 4th** — Knee-High by The Fourth of July — This is an old saying once used by farmers to measure the success of their corn crops—if it had grown knee-high by Independence Day, it was a good sign and meant they could count on high yields for the year. Today, due to the advancements in agriculture, growing techniques, and better disease and pest control, corn farmers can expect plants to reach 8 feet by July, according to the Iowa Corn Growers Association. Now, knee-high doesn’t quite measure up!

July 15 — St. Swithin’s Day — *if on St. Swithin’s Day ye do rain, for forty days it will remain.*

July 25 — *Puffy white clouds on this day foretells much snow in the coming winter.*

July 26 — St. Anne’s Day — *Rain on St. Anne’s will continue for a month and a week.*

- *If ant hills are high in July, winter will be snowy.*

- *If the sky beyond the clouds is blue, Be glad, there is a picnic for you.*

June Meeting Review

June meeting was held on June 21 with Jane conducting the meeting. Kim and Carol were absent with COVID. The meeting program for the evening was Sandy Hendricks, a floral designer and fellow garden club member from District V. Sandy completed five arrangements for all to enjoy. The arrangements were then raffled off.

Thank you to the refreshment committee of Kaye Moyer, Nancy Russial, Jane Kruse, Linda Bollinger and Maris Kilgus. The refreshments were well appreciated.

July Meeting

July 19, 2022, is a hands-on workshop. We will be making leaf casts with Dawn Blanton as the instructor. The cost is \$15. To reserve your spot for this workshop, since Dawn does not want to have more than 25 participants, we are asking you to sign up by **July 1** with **Kaye Moyer**. Since this newsletter comes out the first of the month, and you may not have sent your reservation into Kaye for this workshop, please **reach out to Kaye** at kmdm754@comcast.net or **call Kaye** at 570-617-3735 or 570-345-6516 by **July 1** and send your check to Kaye no later than **July 6**. Although the workshop is free to members, you must still reserve your spot with a check payable to SSGC and turned over to Kaye. When you attend the workshop, your check will be returned to you. If you do not attend the workshop, your check will be

ashed. By using this method, we then have a firmer commitment of participation. If we do not fill the workshop with members, then the program will be open to the public and the club will charge outside participants accordingly.

The workshop will be held in the floral building next to the FARM Food Stand at the Schuylkill County Fair Grounds. Dawn and Kim will be opening the building and setting up the workshop starting around 5 PM. Participants might want to bring along a mask because there is some dust from the leaf cast material that may float in the air prior to applying water to the compound. The program/workshop will start at **6:30 PM** with a demonstration by Dawn followed by participants putting on the provided rubber gloves to make a leaf cast of their own to take home and see their final reveal within 24 hours to enjoy their newly minted leaf cast.

Refreshment committee members for the meeting are Bonnie Bernat, Kim Morgan, Pat Wishowsky, Jane Yeasted. Refreshments will be limited at this meeting as there are not any amenities.

Desk of District II/III Director -Jane

Everyone,

It is here. The official flier and application for attending the District II/III September 14 Annual Meeting hosted by Milford Garden Club. Easy access at the Best Western Hunt's Landing Hotel at Matamoras, PA.

Complete your choice of meal and submit the \$45 registration to Liz Steen, address on the enclosed flier. Please get in by September 1 in order for planning and preparations.

DO NOT forget the miniature fun horticulture display. Glean sweet peas, sunflowers and zinnias for added color.

District raffle prizes are arriving. Sale tickets within your garden club to help support District operations. It is wonderful to see all of the variety and thoughtfulness given for your chance prizes.

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 will start proceedings at 10:00. Guest speaker is Kirk Brown capping a year of awareness to conservationists as he speaks on his new topic "The Birthplace of Conservation".

Note: The official flyer and application were sent to South Schuylkill Garden Club Members in a separate email Mailed on June 27, 2022. Check your emails for these important documents.

Note: Carol Haldeman has the raffle tickets for the District Raffle. The raffles are 1 ticket for \$1.00 or 6 tickets for \$5.00.

Jane also sends a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all the members of the South Schuylkill Garden Club that made the District II/III meeting a success on June 13, 2022. It was nice to get together as a District to share our plans. The light fare was greatly appreciated and enjoyed. Now others know what cluster bell flowers are. - Jane

Helen Moyer Curb Appeal Award



Helen Moyer presented to Mildred Brown of Friedensburg the "Helen Moyer Curb Appeal – Spirit of Beatification Award." Millie's yard burst with color in early spring as bulbs brighten the front and side yard of her home. Tree peonies and clematis keep the color popping until later perennials show their faces. Millie's many years of enlightening the neighborhood, the award was most deserving.

This was the third award to be handed out annually by the South Schuylkill Garden Club with many more to come. The South Schuylkill Garden Club recognizes individuals, businesses, and municipalities throughout the county whose

landscape efforts enhance the appearance of our communities. If you see a property worthy of this award, take a photo and send it to Jane Kruse at pachejane@verizon.net

Schuylkill Herb Society

On July 14 they will be visiting Hope Hill Lavender Farm. Please contact Kathy T. for more Information.

Schuylkill County Fair

Running August 1-6, 2022, with the theme "Working Together to Keep the Tradition Alive", consider participating in the local fair. Flower arrangement's themes are Chick Magnet (chicken), Flowers by Lanternlight (lantern in arrangement), My Hero (police, rescue, etc.) and the fair theme.

Look through your garden for flowers, herbs, or vegetables. Think about some crafts you made through the year. Try your hand at baking or submit a jar of jam. Let's keep tradition alive by showing the importance of gardening and plant life in our world.

There is a whole new section added to Department 17 which is the flower department. This is a section of class dedicated to Native Perennials. Here are the classes that can be entered here.

Section 6-A Native Perennials

17 6a 1 Echinacea, purple coneflower (E.Purpurea)
17 6a 11 Eupatorium, Joe Pye Weed (E.Purpurea)
17 6a 21 Helianthus, Perennail sunflower
17 6a 31 Common Milkweed (A. Syrianca)
17 6a 32 Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa)
17 6a 41 Lobelia, Cardinal Flower
17 6a 42 Lobelia. Great Blue
17 6a 51 Rudeckia Hirta, Blackeye Susan
17 6a 61 Iron Weed, (Veronica Noreboracensis)
17 6a 71 Cup Plant (silphium perfoliatum)
Best of Show Native Perennial

There is also a special arrangement class, and it is listed below.

17 8 6 FROM MY GARDEN

This arrangement, you must use only flowers and greens grown by you in your own garden. Nothing purchased. Arrangement must be arranged in a small sprinkling can with flowers in proportion to the container. Choice of design is up to you.

If anyone in the club wishes to have a copy of the Fair Premium Book, I do have some copies and will see that you get one. You can also check out all the many classes to enter exhibits at the Fair

by looking at the Fair website
www.schuylkillfair.com

Scholarship

Scholarship Chairperson, Pat Wishousky, reported that Haley Bowman from the Tri-Valley area is this year's recipient of the SSGC Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 Haley wrote a note of thank you to the club for receiving the funds to further her education, and she is looking forward to our August Club Meeting to be held at Hope Hill Lavender Farm where she will receive her check.

August Club Meeting

Speaking of our August meeting. It will be held at the Hope Hill Lavender Farm, Wendy and Troy Jochem's farm at 2375 Panther Valley Road Pottsville, PA. Wendy will be giving us a tour of the farm, speaking all about the lavender that they grow on the farm. Enjoy the evenings garden tour, peek at the new pollinator garden, and stroll through the farm store where you will be able to purchase some of the wonderful products that Wendy and Troy produce from the lavender. Bring along **picnic food** to share for refreshments. Don't forget to dress with your sunbonnet as we will gather at 6 PM.

Shut In

It was requested to include the names and contact information about former members of the club who need a friendly Hello. These members have had to give up the gardening social connection to take care of loved ones. So, if you have a moment to send a card, email, or make a connection with a phone call, they will surely appreciate the contact.

- Joyce Carlin, 25 East Wood Street, Pine Grove, PA 17963, 570-345-0474
smtowngn@Yahoo.com
- Karen Winkleman 178 Sweet Arrow Lake Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963 570-345-6616
kwinkleman@comcast.net

Please share photos from your gardens.

Email photo to: kamorgan11@gmail.com

or text to 570-617-080

The Buzz About Bee Lawns

Bee lawns are an option to support pollinators. In Pennsylvania, wild bees pollinate most summer crops.



Photo credit: Susan Rihn

Conservation of these insect populations is essential to our food diversity and overall health. Research has shown that pollinator numbers increase in direct correlation with the increase in natural habitats.

Pollinator gardens, ground spaces that are designed and planted with nectar-rich flowering plants to attract, feed and protect the pollen movers, have generated a lot of well-deserved attention as a great option to increase natural pollinator habitats. Another option does exist though: the pollinator lawn ("Bee Lawn").

Bee Lawns are lawns made up of turf grasses blended with low growing perennials that bloom again after mowing. This type of lawn is maintained at a length of four inches or higher to allow the growth of pollinator friendly grass and plant varieties and encourage flower blooming. The non-traditional flowering lawn celebrates plant biodiversity and becomes a meadow-like pollinator haven for food, cover, and nesting.

Research has shown that lawns that are seeded with a grass and flowering plant mixture can feed dozens of species of bees that would otherwise go hungry. A three-year study, commonly referred to

as "the bee lawn" project, done by the University of Minnesota's Turfgrass Science Lab and Bee Lab, showed that lawns with the low growing flowering perennial Dutch white clover supported at least 55 species of bees. The study also found that species count increased with each additional flowering perennial plantings. These findings created quite a buzz in Minnesota resulting in the creation of the Lawns to Legumes Project. Begun in spring/summer of 2020, this \$900,000 grant program provides money directly to residents to plant bee lawns. Other states are also reacting to pollinator study results as at least 28 states have instituted pollinator health laws that address habitat development and protection.

Not ready to leave the orderly hive for this less formal meadow quite yet? There are additional advantages to Bee Lawns:

1. they require less maintenance because the non-grass plants, especially if they are native to the area, do not need as much water and are more tolerant to site and soil issues
2. they save on time, money, and fossil fuels since many transitions to at least a two week mowing schedule; and
3. the colorful foliage and flowers bring a pleasing visual component that adds complexity to your landscape.

Once you decide upon adding a Bee Lawn to your property, there are a few points to consider when planning:

- Notify neighbors and consult housing plan policies and local ordinances so you can ensure there are no compliance issues. You may also want to install signage for identification and education purposes.
- Identify a location. Although most wild bees are not aggressive, especially when foraging, it is beneficial to identify a separate site for a bee lawn for pollinator protection.
- Decide on grass and flowering plant types. During the plant planning phase, consider the type of Bee Lawn that will best suit your

site needs and maintenance goals. There are many different looks that can be achieved based upon the flowering height of the non-grass plantings. As an example, if you are interested in keeping a tidy Bee Lawn, you may choose to plant only one low growing perennial such as Dutch white clover and keep a more traditional low grass border surrounding the flowering lawn. Alternatively, you may have a larger area that you allow to grow taller and less structured so you can choose several flowering plant types of varying heights.

- Since moving to a home "in the country" with close to four acres of property, I have been looking for alternatives to the traditional grass forward landscape. Over the years, we have established several higher maintenance options like foundation planting mulch beds, chicken coop and run areas, two large crop gardens, and several auxiliary flower and herb beds but I was still looking for more efficient and beneficial uses of our grass lawn areas. At times, we found ourselves even considering adding goats, so the news of these low maintenance/high benefit Bee Lawns seemed especially buzz-worthy to me! As a result, our own Bee Lawn Project has taken flight.

If you are interested in starting a Bee Lawn, I suggest that you check out [University of Minnesota Bee Lab](#).

Susan Rihn

Master Gardner – Westmorland County

So, I started this list below and I would love if all of you experienced gardeners would send me your ideas of "You know you are a Gardner when . . ." Let us keep the ideas flowing and add to the list. Let us see how many ideas we can come up with. Just email your ideas to me at kamorgan11@gmail.com or text it to me at 5706170808

You know you are a Gardner when:

- Your gardening gloves fall out of the car door
 - You have gardening tools in trunk of your car
 - You develop community gardens
 - Your gardens are themed
 - You weed your neighbors' gardens
 - You dead head your daughter's flowers
 - You empty the dehumidifier and use the water to water your potted plants
 - You sprinkle your son's hair from a recent haircut around your plants to keep the deer away
 - Pull weeds in public gardens
 - Carry a small set of pruners in your back pocket
 - You are constantly checking the weather report
 - You plant by the phases of the moon
 - You cover your fall plants to protect them from the first fall frost
 - You count on the first frost being in November
 - You cover your plants before the frost hits.
 - Clean your gardening equipment before putting away for the season
 - You stare looking at seed and plant catalogues for next year
 - You know you are a Gardener ...
When you go to the store for groceries and come home with some plants that just jumped into your cart.
- Pat P.

- You know you are a Gardener ... when you can resist everything but temptation in a Garden Center. There is always room for one more. – Pat P.
- You know you are a Gardener ... when you smile YES when a gardener-friend asks you if you could use a few irises or daylilies that she is separating because they need thinning. – Pat P.
- You know you are a Gardener ... when the Plant catalogs arrive in the middle of winter. – Pat P.
- You know you are a Gardener ... when the plants in your garden have come from other gardening friends. Memories ... I plant my friends. – Pat
- You are out on those warm sunny days looking for the first signs of spring popping up from the soil.
- You are looking for the first robin to land in your yard.
- The March winds blow off your sun hat when you are out in the garden.
- You are anywhere that you see drying seed pods on a plant and you wonder if you can get away with collecting some and where you can try planting them. -Kathy T.
- You know you are a gardener when your dog digs a hole going after a varmint and then you place a plant in it – Jeanne
- You know you are a gardener when you light 8 candles in your greenhouse so your peppers and tomatoes do not freeze on a cold night. - Carol H.
- *When you are walking by the restaurant entrance and see weeds in*

the flowerbeds. Your husband turns to you and says, "Don't even think about it."- Linda

- *You know you are a gardener when*

Hands in the Dirt & Head in the Sun